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San Bernardino
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LOCAL A3
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**CITRUS VALLEY
LOSES BY ONE
IN CHAMPIONSHIP**
SPORTS C3

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In defense of Medicare

Area seniors don't trust changes

By **Mediha Fejzagic DiMartino**
Staff Writer

Hunkering under a \$14 trillion debt ceiling, Congress and the Obama administration are negotiating possible changes to Medicare and other benefits programs as part of a deal to increase the government's ability to borrow.

But local seniors want lawmakers to

keep their paws off the federally-sponsored health insurance program for the elderly.

"It doesn't matter if you're a Democrat or a Republican, you need to help your seniors," said Ruthie Estes of Fontana while waiting in the lunch line last week at the Fontana Community Senior Center.

"They get senior votes, so they need

to think about it. They can cut other things, like welfare, services to illegals. Our seniors need to be taken care of."

That sentiment seems to be echoed throughout the country.

Last month, Democrat Kathleen C. Hochul won a special House election in upstate New York after accusing the GOP of wanting to kill Medicare. The race had been called a referendum on the public's attitudes toward the Republican

MEDICARE A4



"Medicare needs to be more secure," said Dee Quiroz, 57, of Fontana, while playing badminton Friday at the Fontana Community Senior Center.

Mediha Fejzagic DiMartino
Staff Photographer

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CADIZ COMPANY



Drawing water from desert

Pipeline may create 745 jobs

By **Andrew Edwards**
Staff Writer

Southern California water providers may be able to draw from a new source of water sufficient to supply 100,000 households if plans for a Mojave Desert pipeline pass environmental muster.

The project could create the equivalent of 745 full-time jobs, according to a consultant.

The Cadiz Co., headquartered in downtown Los Angeles, wants to build a 42-mile pipeline to carry water from a remote desert aquifer in the Cadiz Valley to the Colorado River Aqueduct.

"Why do it? It's sort of like asking, 'Why conserve?'" said Cadiz Co. President and General Counsel Scott Slater.

Letting the water flow to the aqueduct would make it possible to provide a new source of water to providers serving the region, including the Claremont-based Three Valleys Municipal Water District and the San Dimas-based Golden State Water Co.

"We're always looking for water in other places in case the big earthquake hits," Three Valleys board President Bob Kuhn said.



Al Cuizon Staff Photographer

Lesley Thornburg from Cadiz Company walks through the vineyard at the Cadiz Farms on Friday, which are 12 miles southeast of Amboy. The company wants to build a pipeline that could mean 745 full-time jobs.

Three Valleys wholesales water to providers serving customers in east Los Angeles County communities including Pomona and Claremont.

Kuhn said Three Valleys has an option agreement to buy the water if the project is approved.

The Cadiz Co. owns 35,000

acres in the Cadiz Valley. Roughly 11 miles southeast of Amboy, it was once a stopping point for Route 66 travelers.

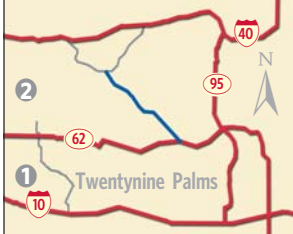
Cadiz and Bristol dry lakes

— and the aquifer that lies below the desert surface — can be found in Cadiz Valley. The landowners currently use the water for lemon groves, vine-

Water project

The Los Angeles-based Cadiz Co. wants to build a 42-mile pipeline, shown below in blue, to carry water from a remote desert aquifer in the Cadiz Valley to the Colorado River Aqueduct. The project could create the equivalent of 745 full-time jobs, according to a consultant.

KEY:
① = Joshua Tree National Park
② = Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms



Google Earth; staff graphic

yards and other crops grown on their Mojave Desert property.

But if Cadiz Co.'s proposal becomes a reality, the company would build a 42-mile pipeline along an existing railroad right-of-way to a place called Rice, which is near Highway 62, well east of Twentynine Palms.

The projected construction cost approaches \$278 million over a two-year period.

The work could create the

CADIZ A4

GOP asks for stronger cellphone bill

Misdemeanor deemed too light for prisoner usage

By **Neil Nisperos** Staff Writer

A bill aimed at curbing widespread cellphone proliferation in state prisons is on its way to the state Assembly after clearing the Senate.

Senate Bill 26 attempts to crack down on the smuggling of cellphones and other wireless communication devices into California prisons — such as California Institution for Men and Califor-

nia Institution for Women, both in Chino.

The bill — which was introduced by State Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Van Nuys — was approved 39 to 0 by the Senate last week.

The Assembly's Public Safety Committee is expected to next hear the bill.

Under the proposed legislation, smuggling a cellphone into prison would bring a misdemeanor charge, which would be punishable by six months in jail, as well as a fine of up to \$5,000 per phone.

Inmates who are found to be in possession of

the devices would face a loss of time credits that could not be restored.

Local Republican lawmakers said the legislation should have carried a felony punishment for violators.

An earlier incarnation of the bill, S.B. 434, would have made the act of smuggling a felony, but the proposal was killed in committee over concerns that it would aggravate prison overcrowding, officials said.

"It's very difficult to get liberal legislators to

CELLPHONES A6

ABOUT S.B. 26

Problem: Cellphone use in state prisons has exploded with nearly 11,000 found last year, compared with only 261 found in 2006.

Bill summary: Under the proposed legislation, smuggling a cellphone into prison would bring a misdemeanor charge, punishable by six months in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 per phone. Inmate possession would result in lost time credits not eligible for restoration.

Bill status: The bill is expected to be heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

YUCAIPA A6
Job fair, workshop tailored to foster youth

When it comes to searching for one's first job, many people are lucky enough to have their parents to turn to for questions and help on making money. But for foster children who are about to turn 18 and enter the work force, the help they made need to find a job might not come as easily. So to bridge that gap, San Bernardino County has a few programs to help their foster youth.

YUCAIPA A3
YAPS receives solar donation

Purses and pets may not seem like they have anything to do with each other, let alone solar energy, but thanks to a generous donation from Bungalow 360, they do now. The Yucaipa-based handbag company recently donated a solar energy system to the Yucaipa Animal Placement Society, a nonprofit animal shelter.

STATE
Local control

The Assembly has voted to strengthen the power of cities to regulate medical marijuana.

Democratic Assemblyman Bob Blumenfeld of Los Angeles introduced AB 1300 to let cities and other local governments make decisions about locations, crime prevention, licensing, taxation, hours and other rules related to marijuana distribution.

The bill was approved 53-1 Friday and goes to the Senate.

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